

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

(106)

59-M

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Action

Control: 17404

Revd: October 23, 1962

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FROM: Port au Prince

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C/COMR

7:09 P.M.

J. B. [Signature] DATE 2/17/62

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 213, October 23, 3 p.m.

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RMR

Foreign Minister Chalmers called me to his office this morning (Raymond was also present) and informed me that after our talk with President Duvalier last night categorical instructions had been sent to Haitian Representatives QAS and UN to align their position with that of US. Re President Kennedy's request for some kind of public indication of Haitian support for US position in this crisis GOH was issuing today following communique (rough translation from French):

"Monday October 22 at 5 p.m. President Duvalier received American Ambassador at National Palace.

Continue quote "In course of this meeting which took place in atmosphere of mutual understanding Ambassador informed President of Republic (1) of serious preoccupations of his Government on subject of threat which offensive armament of Cuba by Soviet Russia represented for people of hemisphere;

(2) Of decisions taken by USG in face of Cuban situation:

Continue quote emphasis was placed on importance of role of Government of Republic of Haiti, neighbor of Cuba and of

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services which Haitian armed forces, volunteers and population as (#) were called upon to render for surveillance of Haitian coast for defense of western democracy. End quote. Comment (expression civil militia was included in draft text, but I suggested it be eliminated in favor of foregoing language).

Resume quote. American Ambassador transmitted to President Duvalier, whose anti-Communist sentiments are well-known, special message from President Kennedy requesting urgently cooperation of Haitian Government in grave Cuban situation in regard to which such political differences as have existed between American peoples become insignificant.

Continue quote. American Ambassador stated he had hope in future once Cuban crisis was surmounted of close Haitian-American cooperation and that frank, good-neighbor policy will develop between the two Governments."

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(b)(1) I told Chalmers April note was not casual affair and was intended ~~some~~* our aid program from Haitian internal constitutional question. I stood ready discuss this and other matters referred to at any time but felt in period immediately ahead we would probably both be preoccupied with a crisis so near to us. If GOH needed help in meeting any local manifestations of this crisis US agencies here would do all possible to help.

Comment: Duvalier has wisely decided align himself with us in Cuban crisis

THURSTON

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(#) Omission, correction to follow

* As received, will service upon request.

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